



Serial No.: 09/465,853

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants: Laura L. Elsberg et al.
Serial No.: 09/465,853
Filed: December 17, 1999
For: DISPOSABLE ABSORBENT
ARTICLES HAVING A STRETCH
PANEL AND AN INTEGRATED
WAIST SIZE ADJUSTMENT
MECHANISM

Docket No.: 15,497
Group: 3761
Examiner: J. A. Webb
Date: August 28, 2001

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16/P
J.A.
9-6-1

Preliminary Amendment

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Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner preliminarily amend the specification and claims of the instant application as indicated below.

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In the Claims

Please AMEND claims 1, 20 and 37 as follows; please substitute the indicated claim(s) for the corresponding, pending claim(s) having the same claim number.

~~Please amend the claims as follows:~~

1. A disposable absorbent article comprising an absorbent chassis which defines a front waist region, a rear waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a pair of longitudinally opposed end edges, and a pair of laterally opposed side edges, said absorbent article further comprising:

- a) at least one fit panel which is located in one of said waist regions of said absorbent chassis and which defines a waist edge, a pair of laterally opposed outboard edges which are located laterally beyond said side edges of said absorbent chassis, and an inward edge which is located longitudinally inward from said waist edge, wherein said fit panel is configured to provide a conforming fit about a wearer's waist;
- b) a pair of primary fasteners which are located on said laterally opposed outboard edges of said fit panel and which are configured to releasably engage an opposite waist region of said absorbent chassis to releasably engage said front waist region to said rear waist region to secure said absorbent article about a wearer's body; and

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